

House, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the American people that if we were not doing that, if we were not doing that, we would be irresponsible.

Well, the Members on the other side of the aisle certainly got that information at home. Because this past Sunday on Meet the Press Mr. Russert had the sitting ranking member of the House of Representatives on the Intelligence Committee, Representative HARMAN, and former Senator Daschle, who was the minority leader in the Senate when this program began, and asked them some very specific questions.

One of the questions he asked was, Senator Daschle, were you briefed? He was talking about this program. Senator Daschle's response, it goes into long details, but, yes, we were briefed. We were briefed.

As the President said, if he wanted to break the law, why did he come to Congress and tell him what he was doing? So the truth is that this is an appropriate program. The truth is Congress knew about it in the appropriate ways.

Representative HARMAN was asked, do you support the program? And she says, I still support the program. This is the thing they are arguing so much about and complaining so much about.

Senator Daschle, should the President stop this program? Senator Daschle replies, no, absolutely not.

Mr. Russert asked Representative HARMAN, do you think the program should be stopped? Representative HARMAN, no, I think the program should go on.

So, Mr. Speaker, truth is an important thing to talk about when we are discussing about matters of public policy.

As Congressman GOHMERT and others have mentioned, I am a physician. I am an orthopedic surgeon. I practiced for nearly 20 years in the Atlanta area, and I know if you do not listen to the right results of tests, if you do not investigate, if you do not get the right information, if you do not get the truth, you cannot make the right diagnosis. And the same is true in public policy. If you are not talking about things in a truthful manner, if you are not putting out information that is accurate, then there is no way that you can reach the right solution.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the leadership that the Speaker is providing. I am proud of the leadership the Republican leadership is providing about the area and the issue of national security. Because this is not a Republican issue, it is not a Democrat issue, it is an American issue, and it may be the most important thing that we have to do as Members of the House of Representatives.

So my hope and prayer truly is that all Members of the House and the Senate will work together in this most solemn, solemn of challenges and tasks that we have and ensure the protection of our Nation.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 15, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective today, February 15th, I resign my seat on the Committee on Science pending my appointment to the Committee on International Relations.

Sincerely,

RUSS CARNAHAN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the opportunity once again to come to the floor of the House of Representatives as the 30-Something Working Group. Myself along with KENDRICK MEEK, Mr. MEEK from Florida, and also Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ from Florida, we have been coming here now, Mr. Speaker, for a couple of years talking about the condition of the United States, our fiscal situation, Mr. Speaker, our investment situation or lack of investment in the United States of America, and also what we believe is the Democratic Caucus and Leader PELOSI and STENY HOYER and the issues that we are trying to put forward.

It has been a very interesting week here for the Democratic Caucus, Mr. Speaker. We had a wonderful guest, George Lucas, the famous writer, director, producer of the great Star Wars movies; and he was here to talk about the innovation agenda that the Democratic party is beginning to put forward. And we have, Mr. Speaker, an innovation agenda to keep America competitive in the 21st century.

As we look at what has been happening here in the United States, this kind of breaks down into two or three separate categories. One, if we want to be a strong country, we have got to start here at home; and we got to start making the investments here in the United States. Research and development, education, health care, alternative energy technologies must start here; and we must begin to grow our economy here, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be of any good to anyone else here in the world.

Unfortunately, our friends across the aisle on the Republican side have failed miserably in their attempt to try to balance the budget here in the United

States of America. We have, as citizens of this country, regardless of what political party you belong to, we have as a country an \$8.2 trillion national debt, \$8.2 trillion dollars. Each citizen in this country owes \$27,000 to our national debt. If a baby is born today, that baby owes \$27,000 to the United States government to help us pay our debt. If you are a senior citizen, you owe \$27,000 to the United States Government. And if we keep going down the path that we have been on, and here it is, \$8.2 trillion as of Valentine's Day, 2006, and your share of the national debt is \$27,500.

Mr. Speaker, we have a real situation in the United States of America. So not only do we owe this, not only does each person owe that, what do we do? So if we are running a \$400 billion annual deficit or \$300 billion, what do we do to fund business in the United States of America? We have got to go out and borrow the money. And this President in the first 4 years of his term borrowed more money from foreign interests than every single administration prior to his in the last 224 years. This President borrowed \$1.05 trillion from foreign interests in 4 years, more than every other president before him.

Is that making America stronger, Mr. Speaker? I do not think it is. I think it weakens our country. And here it is. This President in a Republican House and a Republican Senate has borrowed \$1.05 trillion from 2001 to 2005. And all of these Presidents did not borrow as much from foreign interests as this one has.

And that puts us, Mr. Speaker, that puts us at a position of weakness because guess who we are borrowing the money from to pay the bills. We borrow some from U.S. interests, but this is a chart that outlines who else we are borrowing this money from. \$682 billion we have borrowed from Japan; \$249 billion we have borrowed from China; \$67.8 billion from OPEC.

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Are you kidding me? We are borrowing money from OPEC to help fund and plug the hole in our annual deficits here? Meanwhile, they are making money hand over fist. This is a very dangerous situation that we are in, Mr. Speaker, because here is the end result. Here is where the rubber meets the road.

As we all take out loans to pay for our homes or our cars or our kids' education, unfortunately you cannot just borrow the money at zero percent interest. You have got to pay interest on the money you borrow. So the interest on \$8.2 trillion is a lot of money. So what does that mean for our annual payments that we have to make just on the interest?

This chart is the 2007 budget in billions of dollars. This big red bar that gets up to \$230 billion is what we are going to pay in the 2007 budget projected on interest on the debt, just the